



Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors

Supervisor Khalif Rainey, District 2

For Immediate Release January 20, 2014
Contact: Bill Zaferos, Public Information Manager
414/278-4230 or bill.zaferos@milwcnty.com

MILWAUKEE COUNTY SUPERVISOR KHALIF RAINEY CALLS FOR MAJOR COUNTY HOLIDAY FOR REV. DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Milwaukee County Supervisor Khalif Rainey said today that the annual commemoration of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s achievements should be a major holiday in Milwaukee County, meaning County offices would be closed for the day in tribute to the slain civil rights leader.

"The federal government shuts down every year for a day in honor of Dr. King, and Milwaukee County should do the same," Rainey said. "Right now, the day is treated as a 'minor holiday' in Milwaukee County. This means that County workers are free to come to work and use the day as time off at a later date. This is a dishonor to his memory. We should treat the day as a major holiday and allow County workers to reflect on the life and the work of Dr. King."

Rainey said that the federal government already closes in honor of Christopher Columbus. A major County holiday would not include public safety officials and other "essential" County employees.

"Dr. King was a transformative figure in American history, and we should honor his memory by closing on the third Monday of every January to celebrate his life.

"I urge the County Executive and my colleagues on the Board to declare Martin Luther King, Jr. day as a major holiday in Milwaukee County. We can do no less than to close County government to honor this great man."

###